REMARKS

A. Drawing

In response to the Examiner's objections, Applicants have amended the page 9 of the specification accordingly, using reference 402, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection.

B. Claim objections

In response to the Examiner's objections, Applicants have amended claims 2, 10, 13, 16, 19, 31, 34, 37 and 40 accordingly, correcting the informalities, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objections.

C. Rejection under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-13, 15-16, 18, 22-24, 27, 36-37 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being unpatentable over Gough et al (USP 5,638,501).

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A method comprising:
copying and saving first pixel values corresponding to a first display screen area;
blending the copied first pixel values with second pixel values to generate third pixel values;
replacing the original first pixel values with the third pixel values to effectuate display of a non-blocking always visible display;
monitoring for display operations that impact the first display screen area;
upon detection of such a display operation, ***replacing*** said third pixel values with said first pixel values using said saved first pixel values;
upon completion of the detected operation, copying and saving fourth pixel values corresponding to the first display screen area;
blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to generate fifth pixel values;

replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the non-blocking always visible display (emphasis added).

Accordingly, to achieve the desired non-blocking visible display of the present invention, claim 1 first requires

(a) first pixel values of a display screen area is copied and saved away;

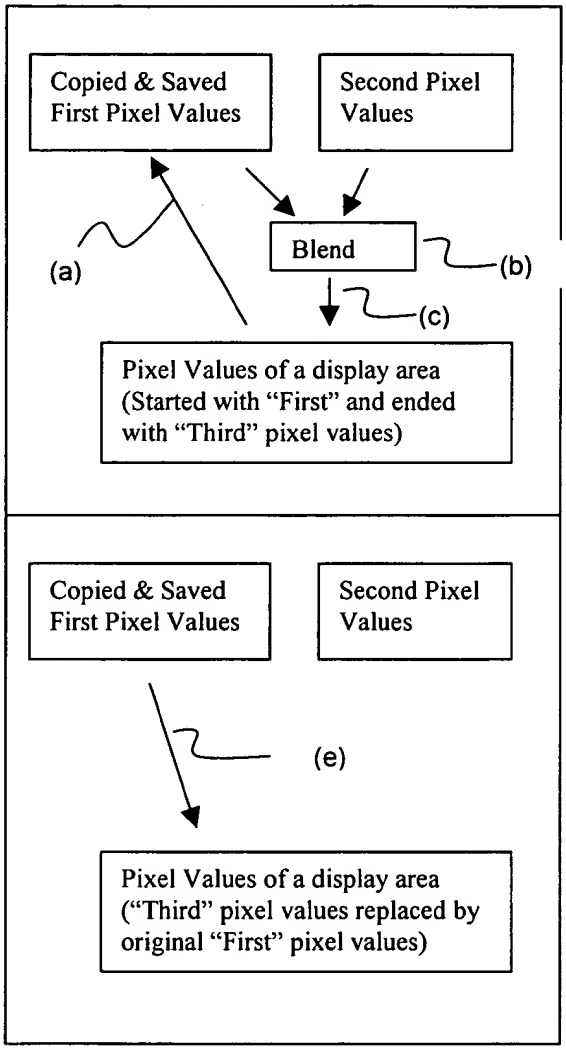
(b) the copied first pixel values are blended with second pixel values to produce third pixel values,

(c) the original first pixel values are then replaced by the third pixel values to effectuate display of a non-blocking always visible display.

Claim 1 then further requires that

- (d) display interactions that impact the particular display screen are monitored, and

- (e) <u>on detection, the third pixel values (i.e. the blended pixel values) are replaced by the saved first pixel values</u>



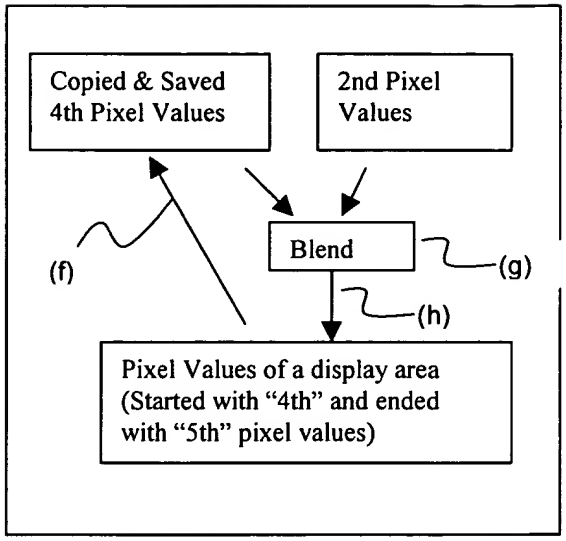
Note that replacing the blended third pixel values with the original first pixel values is not just another copy operation. The requirement represents a unique and novel "swap back" approach to achieving the desired "non-blocking always visible display."

Then, claim 1 recites,

(f) upon completion of the detected operation, copying and saving fourth pixel values corresponding to the first display screen area;

(g) blending the copied fourth pixel values with said second pixel values to generate fifth pixel values, and

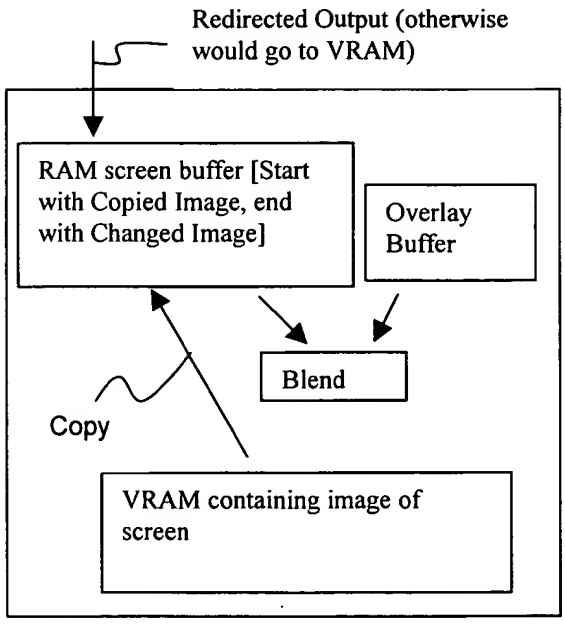
(h) replacing the original fourth pixel values with the fifth pixel values to sustain the non-blocking always visible characteristic of the non-blocking always visible display.



In contrast, as evident by Gough's disclosure in col. 12, lines 59 – col. 13, lines 5, Gough clearly teaches a different approach.

Starting in col.12, lines 59, Gough states:

"Next, ... it is determined whether this is the first time that the application program 101 is drawing to the screen 60 after an overlay image has been produced. If it is, a step 126 creates an overlay buffer, and the image of the screen that is stored in the video RAM (VRAM) is copied from the system's VRAM to the RAM screen buffer ..."



"Next, in step 128, the system is set such that future drawing output which is intended by the operating system, to go to VRAM, is sent to the RAM screen buffer of the present invention instead."

Accordingly, because Gough employs a "**redirect**" approach, redirecting the output into the RAM buffer (as opposed to allowing the output to continue to go the VRAM buffer), Gough does not teach or suggest the recited required "**swap back**" of claim 1, replacing the prior blended result (third pixel values) with the original pre-blend pixel values (first pixel values).

It further follows then because Gough does not employ the required "***swap back***" approach, Gough does not teach or suggest the recited required "monitoring" (so the "***swap back***" may take place).

The difference between Gough's "**redirect**" approach and the present invention's "***swap back***" approach is significant. Gough's ***redirect*** approach can be implemented only as an enhancement to the operating system, whereas the ***swap back*** may be implemented as an enhancement to the operating system, or ***more importantly, independent of the operating system***.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 is patentable over Gough.

Claims 10, 13 and 16 contain similar "***swap back***" limitations as claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, claims 10 and 13 are patentable over Gough.

Claims 22, 31, 34 and 37 are claims 1, 10, 13 and 16 in apparatus form. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, claims 22, 31, 34 and 37 are patentable over Gough.

Claim 2-6, 11-12, 15, 18, 23-27, 32-33, 36 and 39 depend on claims 1, 10, 13, 16, 22, 31, 34 and 39 respectively, incorporating their limitations. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 11-12, 15, 18, 23-27, 32-33, 36 and 39 are patentable over Gough.

Claim 7 recites in pertinent part

> determining whether the cursor events are to be handled by an application program associated with said non-blocking always visible display or an application program associated with an underlying display window, based at least in part on a current blending bias between said non-blocking always visible display and said underlying display windows (emphasis added).

Accordingly, claim 7 requires that when cursor events is detected for the "blended" display, whether the cursor event is to be handled by the application associated with the non-blocking always visible display or the application associated with the underlying display, is determined based on the current blending bias.

For example, the handling of the cursor event may be resolved in favor of the application, which displays have a stronger blending bias. More specifically, if the blending bias is 70% in favor of the underlying display, and 30% in favor of the non-blocking always visible display, cursor events are handled by the application associated with the underlying display.

Gough on the other hand, employs a different approach. Displays in Gough operate in either a reactive or non-reactive mode. The application associated with the constituent display of a blended display operating in the reactive mode is given control to handle any cursor events.

Accordingly, claim 7 is patentable over Gough, with or without any of the other cited references.

Claim 28 is claim 7 in apparatus form, therefore patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 8-9 and 29-30 depend on claims 7 and 28. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, claims 8-9 and 29-30 are patentable over the cited references.

D. Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 19, 21, 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious in view of Gough et al (USP 5,638,501) and Jasskelainen (USP 6,002,397) combined.

Claim 19 contains similar "***swap back***" limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons claim 19 is patentable over Gough. Jasskelainen does not remedy the above discusses deficiency of Gough, therefore claim 19 is patentable over Gough even when combined with Jasskelainen.

Claim 40 is claim 19 in apparatus form. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, claim 40 is patentable over Gough and Jasskelainen combined.

Claims 21 and 42 depend on claims 19 and 40, incorporating their limitations, therefore, for at least the same reasons, claims 21 and 42 are patentable over Gough and Jasskelainen combined.

E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all remaining claims, including the restricted claims, i.e. claims 1-13, 15-16, 18-19, 21-34, 36-37, 39-40 and 42, are all in condition for allowance, and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
Applicants

Date: January 30, 2004

by, Aloysius AuYeung, Reg. No. 35,432
Attorney for Applicants

Customer Number 25943
Pacwest Center
1211 SW Fifth Ave., Ste 1600-1900
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: (503) 222-9981
Fax: (503) 796-2900